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DASHNAKS DEFEATED IN MARSEILLES COUNCIL;  
ARMENIANS WARNED OF DASHNAK INTRIGUE

SAYS DASHNAKS MISUSED POWER -- Paris, Azad Khosk, 11 May 51

We are informed that last Sunday's convention of the Armenian Religious Council in Marseilles elected seven new members to replace an equal number whose terms have expired. Although we do not yet have the details of the elections, judging from the results, we can say the Armenian Church Community in Marseilles rallied to protect the unity of the Armenian Church and the supreme authority of the ecclesiastical seat at Echmiadzin in Soviet Armenia.

Whereas five of the former members are Dashnaks, none of the newly elected members belong to that group. To ascertain the causes of the Dashnak defeat, it is necessary to go back 3 years. At that time the Dashnaks had a majority in the council. Their leaders trampled over the regulations of the Armenian Church Constitution, showed contempt for the will of the majority, clung tenaciously to their posts of power, and made no attempt to respect the rights of newly elected members.

And when we consider that the executive council -- composed chiefly of Dashnaks -- openly and illegally used the organization to further its political ambitions, we can easily understand why the Armenian people of Marseilles turned against the Dashnaks with indignation. It is but natural that a body elected by the people, which violates the constitution and shows contempt for the will of the people, sooner or later must answer for it. The Dashnaks dared to go even further by refusing to recognize the supremacy of the Catholicos at Echmiadzin and openly urging the Armenian people to break all ties with the Soviet Armenian Church.

This is why the elections in Marseilles represent an indictment and a defeat for the Dashnaks. The reactionary, anti-Echmiadzin policies of the Dashnaks are no longer a secret to anyone.

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The convention, by giving its votes to impartial men devoted to the interests of the church, has served notice that those who forsake the people will not remain unpunished. It has also exhibited a fervor and faith in the unity of the Armenian Church and in the supreme leadership of our Catholicos.

DASHNAKS BLASTED IN CHURCH DISPUTE -- Beirut, Zartonk, 12 May 51

The Dashnak organ Hairenik has resorted to calumny and impiety to achieve its sordid aims. The branding of Diran Mesrobian, Archbishop of North America, as the "hooded spokesman of the Communists" is not directed merely against his person; Archbishop Diran and his office are the scapegoats for Dashnak attacks to discredit and blacken the reputation of the Armenian Church and the entire Armenian community. They direct their poisonous slander indiscriminately at every individual clergyman and every religious body. Their sole guiding principle is that of satisfying their political greed.

"Our titular church leaders have only one thought in mind -- how best to serve their own interests," reports the Fresno, California, newspaper Asbarez in its 19 January 1951 edition. It continues, in its usual malevolent spirit, with the assertion that our high clergymen do absolutely nothing to deserve their titles and posts. They show only "disunity and a crawling adoration for the world's greatest evil -- Communism."

Thus, the individual clergyman is not the sole target of the Dashnaks. The Dashnaks direct their hateful weapon of fraud against the entire Armenian Church.

In its 16 February 1951 issue, Asbarez placed the responsibility for a disunited Armenian nation on the "stupid, insane clergy, the 'lovers of Soviet Armenia' -- from the Catholicos down to the last priest."

Nor is this slanderous persecution limited to the Armenian Church. It extends to the ranks of those who "sing praises to Stalin." Asbarez defines this category as including all the priests "from Etem's Kalfaian to Boston's Toumaian," all those who refuse to renounce Armenia, who refuse to join the Dashnak traitors. One aspect of this entire question is that the Armenian Revolutionary Federation has violently opposed Bishop Nersoyan of New York, employing lies, distortion and threats.

It is the duty of the Armenian people to protect their church. They must organize their strength against the Dashnak attacks. The Armenian Church does not proclaim the "infallibility" of its prelates. Certainly, Bishop Nersoyan has made mistakes, as do all public servants. But it will be a far greater mistake if we do not perceive the significance of and counteract the new tactics adopted by the Dashnaks.

An organization representing the Armenian Apostolic Church can, with the cooperation of US friends and in the name of the Armenian community of the US, take adequate steps to render these Dashnak attacks harmless. Once the Dashnaks have been unmasked, the glory of the Armenian Church will reassert itself and our great religious leaders will be vindicated in the eyes of the world. We must come to the aid of our clergymen who have suffered persecution, both spiritually and physically, at the hands of the Dashnaks.

DASHNAK AGITATION CHARGED -- Paris, Azad Khosk, 3 Jun 51

Our readers are doubtless aware of the militant slogan which recently appeared in Aztarar, the Dashnak paper published in Beirut. The slogan took the following form: "Ten thousand well-organized Armenian youths are awaiting the proper moment to liberate their country from Turkish and Bolshevik domination."

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Numerous protests have forced the Dashnak paper to drop this violent slogan and to assume a more "diplomatic" position in its publications.

Today, an even more authoritative Dashnak paper, Hairenik published in Boston, has undertaken efforts to revive this idea. Encouraged by the war neurosis existing throughout high government circles in the US, Hairenik believes that the time has come to prepare a list of its followers for the coming struggle.

The recently created organization called "Friends of the Fighters for Russian Liberation" -- a group sponsored by the US State Department -- has been known to us for many months through the Armenian press in the US. Hairenik advised Washington to include in this organization representatives of those peoples who comprised part of the former Tsarist Empire.

That paper based its proposal on the contention that those leaders who were forced by the Bolsheviks to flee into exile constitute a more efficient group for the formulation of anti-Soviet policies, by virtue of their first-hand knowledge of Bolshevik techniques.

The Dashnaks are attempting to convince Washington that they represent an "august force" among the Armenians in dispersion. They are also endeavoring to show that all the peoples of the USSR -- Russian and non-Russian alike -- resent the existing regime and are waiting for the opportunity to revolt and to hurl down the Bolshevik government.

It was with this thought in mind that the Dashnaks allied themselves with Hitler. Consequently, we find it necessary to warn our compatriots of this new Dashnak intrigue.

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